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# Curricular Affairs Committee Minutes December 15, 2009

University of Rhode Island Faculty Senate

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## CURRICULAR AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

**Minutes** for the fourth meeting of the 2009-2010 academic year.

- I. The meeting was called to order at 3:08 p.m. on Monday, December 14, 2009 in Library Conference Room A, Chairperson Mundorf presiding.

The following members were present: Professors Doerner, Englander, Honhart, Jervis, Knickle, MacDonald, Mahler, Misto and Mundorf; Vice Provost Beauvais and Dean Quina. Ms Lyons served as Dean Richmond's designee.

Guest: Professor von Reinhart from the College of Arts and Sciences Curriculum Committee

It was noted that Consent Agenda items are labeled with a *c* and that any member could request that a consent item be discussed.

- II. The Minutes of Meeting #3, November 23, 2009 were approved.

III. REPORTS

- A. Professor von Reinhart shared the draft guidelines on changing 3-credit courses to 4-credit courses under consideration by the College of Arts and Sciences Curriculum Committee.

Discussion ensued with regard to the criteria proposed by Arts and Sciences and Professor von Reinhart was encouraged to proceed as indicated. There was some consideration as to whether a New Course form or a Minor Change form should be used for credit changes and it was suggested that a credit change form might be needed. It was agreed that whatever form was used, two syllabi should accompany the proposed credit proposal.

The members of the CAC expressed their appreciation to the College of Arts and Sciences Curriculum Committee for developing the guidelines and Professor von Reinhart for sharing them with the CAC.

- B. Provost Beauvais indicated that the NEASC Proposal for an accreditation standard on online courses with regard to verification of students would be approved and suggested that it would probably affect URI within the next 5 years. She said that the University should begin to think about the standard as soon as possible.

Chairperson Mundorf reported that the SAKAI Committee was also looking into the concerns about verification of students.

Discussion ensued with regard to how other institutions verify that the actual student was doing the work and completing the final exam.

- C. It was agreed to postpone discussion of the General Education Task Force and the UCGE Committee' proposal for the creation of "Grand Challenges in \_\_\_\_\_" topics course shells until the Committee reached item V, E.

- D. Ms Grubman reported that in an effort to coordinate e-campus with the printed catalog, Ms. Lawrence from Enrollment Services raised a question about the prerequisite for NFS 434 (or AVS 434), which did not exist. Ms. Grubman said that after consulting with the chairs of both departments she recommended the elimination of the prerequisite as it appears in the Catalog.

A motion was made to approve the change in prerequisite. The motion carried.

#### IV. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

##### A. College of the Environment and Life Sciences

###### 1. Department of Environmental and Natural Resources Economics

Ms. Grubman said that she had not received a revised syllabus for EEC 350 as of that date.

###### 2. Department of Nutrition and Food Sciences

- a. Following discussion, it was agreed to postpone consideration of the change in credits and prerequisite for NFS 443\* pending receipt of clarification from the department of how the additional credit would be used.
- b. The change in description for NRS 207 by adding the statement, "Not open to students with credit in 210," was approved.

##### B. College of Arts and Sciences

###### Department of English

- a. Following discussion, it was agreed to inform the Department of English that it wasn't clear from their proposals that they were consistent with the allocation of credit in the UNIVERSITY MANUAL as outlined by the College of Arts and Sciences Curriculum Committee in their proposed guidelines for 4-credit courses: "1 credit hour should consist of one of the following. One hour of seat time and two additional hours of work by students, including homework, studying for exams, projects, etc., a two-hour lab and one hour of outside work, and a three-hour lab and no outside work."
- : It was agreed to ask the department to provide more documentation about the increase in credits for ENG 300, ENG 302, ENG 303, and ENG 304 was postponed pending discussion with the College of Arts and Sciences Curriculum Committee about their development of a rubric for changing courses from 3 to 4 credits.
- b. Consideration of the addition of ENG 376 remained postponed pending receipt of additional English proposals from the College of Arts and Sciences

V. NEW BUSINESS

A. College of Arts and Sciences

1. Letters

The addition of LET 150X was approved.

2. Department of Physics

The addition of PHY 210 was approved pending receipt of a completed Library Impact Statement.

B College of the Environment and Life Sciences

1. Department of Biological Sciences

ℳ The change in description and prerequisite for BIO 445 and BIO 467\* was approved.

2. Department of Geosciences

ℳ The change in title and description for GEO 204 was approved.

3. Department Landscape Architecture

a. Following discussion, the change in cross-listing and prerequisite for LAR 434 was approved effective for the fall semester 2010.

b. The change in credits and method of instruction for LAR 301 was approved.

c. The revised change in curriculum for the BLA degree was approved.

3. Departments of Natural Resources Science and Environmental and Natural Resources Economics

Consideration of the addition of EVS 109X (or NRS 109X or EEC 109X) was postponed pending receipt of more information about grading and the evaluation of students.

C. College of Human Science and Services

Department of Human Development and Family Studies

ℳ The change in description and prerequisite for HDF 290 was approved.

D. Online Course Proposals

Consideration of the request for the addition of online as a method of instruction for CPL 202 (or GEG 202) Introductory Urban Geography: Exploring

*\*May require action by the Graduate Council*

Cities (Atash) was postponed pending receipt of a more detailed syllabus that demonstrated the course was altered appropriately for online instruction such as examples of assignments and grading.

E. University College and General Education Committee (UCGE) and General Education Task Force

Vice Provost Beauvais provided the CAC with a copy of the RFP for the “Grand Challenges” pilot for general education. She and Senator Honhart responded to questions about the pilot.

Ms. Grubman distributed copies of a draft from the UCGE Committee about the creation of new “Grand Challenges” topic courses that were being developed by the General Education Task Force and the UCGE Committee. Ms. Grubman also distributed a draft of a Grand Challenges topics course shell, which had been developed by Professor von Reinhart for the UCGE Committee.

Senator Honhart asked the committee to review the materials and advise the Task Force and the CAC as to what should be done to refine the pilot proposal and the proposed “Grand Challenges” topics course shell.

F. Planning for period between December 14, 2009 and February 8, 2010

Following discussion, members of the CAC agreed to conduct their business during the period when classes are not in session on SAKAI and by e-mail. This would include any temporary courses, proposed topics courses from the UCGE Committee and responses to their requests for information.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sheila Black Grubman